

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01968 060821Z
ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRKORITY 8618
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW 31
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1968

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CH, YO, SOPN

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV PRESS FLAP OVER COVERAGE OF TITO VISIT TO PRC

REF: PEKING 1953

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY. REPORTING OF SENSITIVE SUBJECTS TOUCHED ON
IN BILATERAL YUGOSLAV-CHINESE TALKS BY POLITIKA CORRESPONDENT
IN PEKING CAUSED MAJOR FLAP WITHIN OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV PARTY.
DELEGATION DEPUTY LEADER DOLANC WAS REPORTEDLY INFURIATED AT
POLITIKA ARTICLE REPORTING SPECULATION BY "FOREIGN
OBSERVERS" THAT TALKS HAD TOUCHED ON EUROCOMMUNISM,
PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS, AND ALBANIA. BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED

IN ADVANCE THAT MEDIA COVERAGE WOULD NOT BROACH THESE ISSUES AND THAT A FINAL COMMUNIQUE WOULD NOT BE ISSUED SO AS TO DODGE THE NECESSITY TO ADDRESS THEM. PRC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTEDLY CONVENED THEIR "UNDERSTANDING" AND SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY THE INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT RESIDENT IN PEKING HAS PROVIDED USLO OFFICER A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF A MAJOR FLAP WITHIN OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV PARTY INVOLVING REPORTING BY POLITIKA CORRESPONDENT IN PEKING DRAGO RANCIC. DESPITE PRIOR AGREEMENT BY YUGOSLAV AND CHINESE SIDES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PUBLISHED REFERENCE TO EUROCOMMUNISM, ALBANIA, AND REESTABLISHMENT OF YUGOSLAV-CHINESE PARTY RELATIONS, RANCIC (TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF THE LOCAL TANJUNG CORRESPONDENT) FILED A STORY REPORTING SPECULATION BY "FOREIGN OBSERVERS" THAT THESE SUBJECTS WOULD BE COVERED IN TITO'S TALKS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS. (COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION).

3. YUGOSLAV LCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SECRETARY (AND SECOND RANKING DELEGATION MEMBER) STANE DOLANC REPORTEDLY EXPLODED WHEN THE ARTICLE WAS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION IN THE COURSE OF A RECEPTION AT THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY. DOLANC SUPPOSEDLY CALLED RANCIC ON THE CARPET AND INDICATED THAT HE SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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PACK HIS BAGS AND RETURN HOME TO YUGOSLAVIA WITH THE DELEGATION. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION THEN APPEALED TO DOLANC TO LET THE MATTER PASS, NOTING THAT THE ARTICLE WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE AND (SUPPOSEDLY) POINTING OUT THAT "COMRADE TITO WILL NEVER KNOW ABOUT IT UNLESS YOU BRING IT TO HIS ATTENTION". (COMMENT: OWING TO TITO'S FAILING EYESIGHT, PAPERS PRESENTED TO HIM MUST BE PREPARED IN LARGE, BOLD CHARACTERS. THE DECISION ON WHAT TO SHOW TITO RESIDES WITH DOLANC).

4. DOLANC FINALLY AGREED TO DROP THE MATTER FOR THE MOMENT. RANCIC IS CURRENTLY TRAVELLING WITH THE DELEGATION IN SHANGHAI AND EXPECTS TO RETURN TO PEKING AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT. BEFORE LEAVING PEKING, RANCIC WAS REPORTEDLY ASSURED BY MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT FOREIGN PRESS LIAISON DIVISION DIRECTOR MA YU-CHEN THAT THE CHINESE SIDE "UNDERSTOOD" THE SITUATION AND WOULD NOT PRESS THE MATTER WITH HIM.

5. WE HAVE IT SECOND OR THIRD HAND (FROM THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT AND DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES) THAT CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG WAS PARTICULARLY VOCIFEROUS ON THE ISSUE OF ALBANIA. NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE, HOWEVER. WOODCOCK

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